



April 11, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: City of Seattle - South Lander Street Grade Separation FAST Grant Application

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the 102 members of the Washington Council on International Trade, I am writing to urge you to support the construction of the South Lander Street Grade Separation project - the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST). I am pleased to offer my support for the City of Seattle's application for a \$55 million grant to complete this project.

S. Lander Street is a vital route for freight and general travel in the largest manufacturing industrial center in the Pacific Northwest. It provides direct connections to Port of Seattle facilities and freight operational support centers, which contribute to 75,000 existing jobs. By 2040, it is projected to support an additional 25,000 jobs. The S. Lander Street overpass, which moves freight safely and efficiently is important for Washington's economy, where 40 percent of jobs depend on international trade.

However, S. Lander Street is currently closed for an average of 4.5 hours daily due to train traffic, impacting the mobility of tens of thousands of peoples and severely impacting freight access to port and manufacturing facilities critical to the local and national economy. The FAST project is a critical infrastructure investment that addresses this issue. It will make badly needed safety improvements by separating railroad traffic from semi-trucks, cars, buses, bicycles, and pedestrians. In turn this will reduce congestion and emissions for more than 13,000 vehicles each day.

For nearly 20 years, this project has been prioritized in every study of freight access in the Duwamish, including two studies by Freight Action Strategy, the joint Port of Seattle/City of Seattle Industrial Areas Freight Access Program, the WSDOT State Freight Plan, and the City of Seattle Freight Master Plan.



Infrastructure improvements on freight mobility is necessary for maintaining the success and growth of our economy. We encourage you to support this project, which will make the much-needed improvement to increase and maintain the competitiveness of the City of Seattle, Port of Seattle, the Puget Sound region, and Washington State. Thank you for your time and review of this grant request. We urge you give the City of Seattle's grant application for this project full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Eric Schinfeld', is positioned below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Eric Schinfeld  
President, Washington Council on International Trade

Cc:  
Senator Maria Cantwell  
Senator Patty Murray  
Governor Jay Inslee  
Congressman Jim McDermott